Mr. President: Well, if the Hon'ble Member will quote one of these orders to which he takes exception and ask for the implication of these words, it will be given to him.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether S. O. No. 16 does not lay down in express terms that when an appointment is made though officiating, care should be taken to see that when that office falls permanently vacant that officiating hand should be given that post.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Hon'ble Member is quite correct. There is a provision like that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In view of that provision in the S. O. how will the Government be justified, Sir, in saying "without prejudice to the claims of others", in putting certain officers of lower ranks over the heads of many others higher above?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* So far as I could follow one does not contradict the other position.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Has the Government ever overlooked other claims?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* So far as the Government are aware, no.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In the light of the answer that many such orders are passed, will the Government be pleased to consider, Sir, the desirability of deleting S. O. 16 from the Standing Orders?

Rama Varmha Tampurn *(Secretary to Government):* There is no need for that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* So, Sir, the Government are not prepared even to consider that question?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No.

PERSONS DISMISSED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

70. Mr. K. R. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Will Government be pleased to furnish a list of persons dismissed from Government service during the last five years, beginning from Chingam 1115, together with reasons for dismissal in each case?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* A list is placed on the Council table.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

71. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state whether it has been seen that the grant of Dearness Allowance amounting to a tenth of the income of the State has not produced the desired results; but has helped inflation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Government do not accept the Hon'ble Member's conclusion as to the effect of the grant of Dearness Allowance.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any representation that the Dearness Allowance did not make these officers of the lower ranks to live the life that they were living before?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Not recently, not anyone of these days. Formerly we used to get representations for increased allowance, but recently we have not been receiving any.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Recently means, after the Dearness Allowance was raised?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government sympathetiically consider, Sir, the question of enhancing the Dearness Allowance even to persons drawing below Rs. 150 to be more exact Rs. 141?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Goverment):* The Government have stated several times on the floor of this House that they would ever review the position from time to time and when it becomes necessary to raise the Dearness Allowance they will never hestitate to do so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether it was not on that assurance that a cut motion to that effect that was discussed here during the Budget Session was withdrawn on a tip from proper quarters?

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member might well be a little more explicit?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank you, Sir. Are the Government aware, Sir, that a cut motion by the questioner, my humbleself, to the effect that the Dearness Allowance of all officers up to Rs. 300 be increased from the existing rate, *i. e.*, up to Rs. 25 cent per cent, 25-50 75 per cent, 50-100 50 per cent; like that up to Rs. 300, was discussed during the Budget Session? Are the Government aware, Sir, of such a discussion?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* In truth, I don't remember the details. I do not doubt that a discussion like that has taken place.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to sympathetically consider the question of further increasing the dearness allowance up to a pay of Rs. 150 in the light of that discussion or in any suitable manner. It was a cut under the General Administration.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* As I have stated before, the Government are always watching the situation. We have got the general indices of the cost of living. We are watching the position and if necessity arises, we will increase the Dearness Allowance.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I request the Government, Sir, to expedite the process of consideration in this behalf? Can I have an answer, Sir, from the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No further answer is necessary.

BOAT ACCIDENT—ERNAKULAM

72. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state whether enquiries were made regarding the recent motor boat accident near Ernakulam jetty. If so, will a copy of the report of the enquiry be placed on the table?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes. A copy of the Police Commissioner's report is appended. *(Please see Appendix II).*

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-women):* May I know what steps have the Government taken to avoid future accidents?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Revenue Authorities are in charge of the boat service; they have addressed the Chief Engineer to re-model the jetty and to have a re-modelled jetty so as to introduce the queue system and the Police are deputing police constables during rush hours to regulate the passengers.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know who conducted the enquiry?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Police Sub-Inspector who arrived at the spot conducted the enquiry.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was the boat overloaded at that time?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It could not be definitely ascertained whether the boat was overloaded or not. All the passengers entered the boat in a rush.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is it not the duty of the enquiring officer to find out the reasons that caused the accident, whether it was overloaded, etc.

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The cause of the accident is given in the report appended.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was it overloaded at the time? Did the officer find it out?

Mr. President: The report makes the cause of accident quite clear. Overloading of the boat did not cause the accident.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* That is immaterial. The enquiring officer should have ascertained whether there was overloading or not.

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Hon'ble Members could very well visualise the pell-mell then existing there. At that stage, the counting of the passengers was not the important point. The more urgent business was to remove the persons to the hospital.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* But during the enquiry?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* It was rather difficult to find out who were the passengers and who were not.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Who informed the Police about this accident?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The Police got the information, the station being very close and went to the spot.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Who informed the Police? Did any Police Officer inform the station?

Khan Sahib Y. M. Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I cannot say that for certain.

Mr. T. A. Ramchandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Was there a Police Officer at the jetty?

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